COMMUNIST POLICY LEAFLET 2

THE CHANGE-OVER FROM WAR TO PEACE

Leaflets in this Series :—

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The Change-over from War to Peace

IN THE WAR TO DESTROY FASCISM, THE PEOPLE ALSO fought and worked for something better than the Britain of pre-war years.

They want work : but not long hours, low wages and bad conditions. They want homes, but not old and inconvenient houses at exorbitant rents. They want good food and clothing at reasonable prices. They want leisure, entertainment and sport. They want to read, to see good pictures, good plays and hear good music, to travel and enjoy life. They want to live, not merely to exist. They want a chance in life for themselves and their children.

How can they make sure of jobs, homes, security and a rising standard of living for all? Certainly not by leaving everything to chance.

It was necessary for the Government to step in and control production and distribution during the war, in order to prevent chaos and make sure that war needs were met. In the same way it is necessary for these controls to be continued after the war, to prevent chaos and make sure that the peace needs of the nation are met.

The change-over of industry from war needs to peace needs

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is impossible without Government planning and control. Control is the only guarantee that the needs of the people will come before the greedy profit-making interests of the monopolies and the speculators.

Who is to decide which should come first—new houses, schools and hospitals, or new cinemas, greyhound stadiums and pubs? Who is to make sure that prices do not soar, and eat into the wages and savings of the people? Who is to decide how much furniture, clothing and other necessities must be made?

Certainly not the monopolists, financiers and landowners. Only the Government can take these decisions and see that they are carried out. The Government must plan *what*, *how much* and *when* the things we need are to be produced, and fix the selling price. The Government must be in charge of transport, so that the goods the people need get first claim.

To remove controls means chaos. The Conservatives who demand the end of controls want a free hand for the monopolists to make huge profits out of the people's needs. This is the most disruptive demand that could possibly be put forward. It would shatter plans for full employment and a rising standard of living. It would make international co-operation impossible. By making this demand, the Conservatives show that they stand for anarchy and chaos.

But the Labour Movement which stands for planning and

control, will have the support of the overwhelming majority of the nation in its fight.

How can the great majority of the nation who want a Better Britain make sure that control is continued and is used in their interests ?

They must support the Labour Movement to carry forward the fight for control and ensure that in the coming elections the Conservatives are soundly defeated, and that a Labour and Progressive majority is returned to Parliament and the Councils, consisting of Labour, Communist, Co-operative, Common Wealth and Liberal M.P.'s.

A Government backed by such a majority in Parliament and by a united movement outside, would rally support from all sections of the people who stand for progress, and be able to overcome the political and economic resistance of the big employers, bankers and landlords who oppose control because they want a free hand to exploit the situation after the war.

It would put into operation plans to meet the urgent needs of the people, and take the necessary powers to control production and distribution in order to make those plans effective.

If you wish to know more about other questions of Communist Policy, advice on reading material, or details of membership, write to :—

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